PROPOSED NEW GAS COMPANY IN SOUTHAMPTON.—The surveying officers, Messrs. Ellison and Lowe, appointed to inquire into the expediency of passing the Southampton Consumers' Gas Light and Coke Company's Bill, have reported *against* the bill. The surveyors say, at the conclusion of their report: "It was impossible for us, in arriving at our decision, not to consider the known evils arising from competition between gas companies; in addition to which we may observe—that whenever a sharp contest between rival gas companies has for a time existed, the breaking up of pavements by the laying down of the principal mains is the least evil; the most serious one is the continued changing backward and forward of the service-pipes from one set of mains to that of the rival company; every such opening of the ground rendering it unsafe for weeks, and sometimes months, to the passage of carriages and horses. The ground so loosened admits of any gas escaping from fractured mains more directly to the cellars and kitchens of the houses adjacent. That a continuous and excessive escape of gas is going on in those streets where numerous gas-pipes are laid is evident to any one looking at the colour of the earth surrounding such pipes as are constantly to be seen in the streets of London. We need not refer more particularly to the evils of competition in price, or their usual ending in the amalgamation of the rival companies, except to remark, that the promoters have pledged themselves not to amalgamate in any case with the present company, the only consequence of which, we conceive, would be the prolongation of the contest, and the closing up of one way of escaping from mutual insolvency. We cannot but state that, although we are unable to decide in favour of the scheme of the promoters, we are fully conscious that the formation of the company has been of service to the town of Southampton, in rendering the present company more anxious to meet the wishes of the consumers, more particularly as respects the diminution of price." The price charged in Southampton for public lights is 4*l.* *per annum* each; which is at the rate of 2s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet, including cleansing, lighting, wear and tear, &c.

CONSUMPTION OF SMOKE.—A patent has been obtained by Mr. Lord, of Allerton, Chester, for an ingenious application of two furnaces or sets of fire-bars to one boiler, for steam-engine or other purposes, whereby the gases from the fuel freshly applied to one grate pass over the incandescent coke on the other, and the entire carbonaceous matters are thereby consumed. The application of these is directed in such manner, that the entire heat is applied to the whole of the boiler, although but one furnace is at a glowing heat. To effect this, the boiler is provided with a water space about the centre, extending across the upper half of the flue, and forming a bridge to direct the course of the smoke. The grates are moveable on rails; and when the fires are first about to be lighted, they are both brought towards the furnace doors, by which means all the dampers are open; when a clear red heat is obtained, one is pushed backwards to a certain point, and one set of dampers only kept open; a fresh supply of fuel, is then supplied to the other fire grate—the unconsumed carbon therefrom, passing under and through the clear fire of the first, is thoroughly decomposed and the gases produced pass up the chimney. As soon as a bright red heat is obtained in the last fed fire, the same process is repeated with the other set of bars, and the operation has the same effect as before.

TRIGONOMETRICAL SURVEYS.—A return, moved for by Mr. J. Hume, shews that since 1791, up to the present time, an aggregate amount has been paid in England, Ireland, and Scotland, on account of the survey of counties and the trigonometrical surveys, of 1,462,522*l.*; viz., 608,687*l.* in England, 817,512*l.* in Ireland, and 36,322*l.* in Scotland.

ROYAL ACADEMY PORTERS.—Complaints have been made to us that the porters at the Royal Academy ask parties who bring works for exhibition, for beer-money, and that, in the event of refusal, it is just possible the Council never see the picture at all! We hope this is not correct. If it be, Mr. Knight ought to look to it.

TRUE GLORY.—Sir Walter Scott once nobly said, that a humble Scot who supplied his country with a bridge had done more for it than many a conqueror had done.

SLATES.—At the present time, says the *Mining Journal*, when all our slate quarries cannot supply the demand, and when the price, during the past year, has advanced 30 per cent., a general description of the several qualities will be interesting. The old Delabole, and, indeed, the greatest quantity found in Cornwall, is the "grey green;" this slate is laminated sufficiently fine to admit of being cleft into roofing slates, of all sizes, in common use, and is exceedingly strong. When used for roofing, and style is a consideration, it is best adapted for ecclesiastical edifices, and rusticated stone villas. In slabs it is, from its great strength, the very best, particularly for pavements, floors, railway stations, lintels, cantilevers, and other work where great resistance is required. The "light blue green" is best adapted for entrance halls, staircases, and other works; when the slate is exposed, as being of a light colour, it has a more pleasing appearance, and does not shew the condensed vapours, like the darker. The "speckled" is not so finely laminated as the former-named kinds, but being excessively hard, and containing veins of iron and nodules of mundic, is best suited for street paving, where it is capable of withstanding a greater amount of friction than any other kind, and consequently wears a much longer time; but it should on no account be used in a thin form, as for roofing, as its susceptibility to oxidise causes its rapid decomposition. The "dull blue red:" this, the sooner it is given to the spoil heap the better, as it is totally unfit for any permanent purpose. The "white," or "yellow-emerald-green," is of great use in ornamental purposes; and in none does it show itself off to greater advantage than in tesselated pavements, where, when mixed with black and light blue, it possesses a most pleasing appearance, and, in point of architectural style, a positive original effect.

RESTORATION OF MARNHAM CHURCH, NOTTS.—The parish church of Marnham, twelve miles from Newark, has been restored at the cost of about 1,000*l.*, under the direction of Mr. Brunning, of Stamford. It consists of a nave, with north and south aisles, a well-developed chancel, along the northern side of which the aisle of the nave is extended, a southern porch and a tower at the western extremity. The external character of the structure is that of the perpendicular period; but upon examining internally the pillars and arches of the northern aisle, it would seem that the original nave and chancel were erected in the early English style; but that they have been repaired, with considerable alterations and additions, during the time when the perpendicular style was prevalent. With the exception of the tower and the porch, the whole of the church has been substantially repaired and restored. The *Nottingham Journal* says, the roof is entirely new, and the timbers are stained of a dark brown colour. The floor of the nave and part of the chancel have been paved with black and red tiles from Messrs. Minton's manufactory. The ancient font, which is very simple, has been placed on a new base, cleaned and furnished with a water drain. The chancel (the roof of which has elaborately carved beams, &c.), is fitted with stalls and returns, and the nave with open seats of oak. The reading-desk on the southern side of the chancel arch is of oak, with open panels, and the pulpit is of Ancaster stone, carved in a style to correspond with the general features of the building. Mr. J. E. Hall, of Nottingham, was the builder employed.

THATCH, AND SOME OF ITS EFFECTS AND CAUSES.—A "Traveller," in the *Hampshire Independent*, says that at Andover, where there are many "squalid-looking houses covered with straw," although it is an ascertained fact that fevers prevail in these malarious receptacles, there is "no encouragement to build better houses for the labourer; for if slate was substituted for thatch, and the houses made tidy and comfortable, they would be assessed to the rates." This is a lamentable state of things. Lord Morpeth ought to have such cases as this in his eye ere the clauses of his new bill are ultimately disposed of.

ADVERSE POSSESSION OF HOUSES.—By the New County Courts Act, section 122, a summary remedy by warrant notice, within seven and ten days, is provided against the adverse possession of houses and land by tenants where the rent does not exceed 50*l.* a year,

THE ARTESIAN WELL AT SOUTHAMPTON.—This unfortunate and endless bore has again stuck in the mud. The Chinese jumper, so far as we can judge, has jumped well enough towards the profound conclusion so devoutly to be wished for; but the grass or hempen rope in use in stagnant China was too primitive for aspiring Britons, and the consequence has been, that the "improved iron rope" gave way, and left the jumper at the bottom of the bore, which had reached to a depth of 750 feet, or 60 feet beyond the bottom of the shaft. The committee were posed, and an expense of 150*l.* was talked of, when the "Chinese puzzle," as the *Hampshire Advertiser* terms it,—somewhat libellously towards the ingenious Chinese, we think,—was happily unravelled by the engineer, who intimated to them that he had got hold of the jumper, with the help of one man and no boy, and without the assistance of the long sum hanging in terrorem over their puzzled heads. "The happy event being communicated, the committee were as much puzzled, however, as ever, as to the course they should pursue. Mr. Docwra, whom they had sent for from London, meantime arrived, and they entered into consultation with him; the result" being, that the good old Chinese mode, which has already done such good service, will probably be discarded, in consequence of the mishaps of which its luckless associate, the new-fangled British rope, appears to have been guilty.

EXTINCTION OF FIRES.—Further experiments have been successfully made at Liverpool on the practicability of raising water from the mains without the aid of fire-engines. The streams of water rose to an elevation of 80 to 90 feet, and occasionally even higher; indeed, to a height far beyond the chimneys of the Bank and buildings in the vicinity, carrying the body of water upwards with a force, it is said, almost incredible. The fire-brigades, according to the *Mail*, are to be forthwith regularly trained to the use of the mains for the extinction of fires.—We may here notice that, according to the *Glasgow Reformers' Gazette*, an engine, patented by Mr. John White, of Manchester, after twenty years' application and improvements, has been successfully tried at Glasgow. The full complement of men required to work this engine is twenty-four; but it can be wrought, in a lesser degree, with two men, there being twelve separate pumps; and, with two men only to each pump, a considerable force of water is thrown out. With the twenty-four men, the water overtopped the cock at the summit of the steeple, 140 feet high. The power of this engine is said to be greater than any other hitherto invented.

GLASS DEVOTED TO A NEW PURPOSE.—Glass, of a rich ruby colour, has been used instead of the old ebony for the sharp or flat keys of the organ of All-Saints, Northampton. The *Bedford Times* suggests that the idea may be happily applied to the whole key-board of the pianoforte with a tasteful diversity or iridescence of colours. If not too smooth for the friction of the gentle cushions usually applied to such electrifiers, and if not as cold in winter to the touch as the ebony-and-ivory contrast certainly is at all times to the sight, we should not wonder if the ides may find favour in bright eyes, and add a new grace where so much of the graceful is already so often concentered.

PUBLIC PARK AT SHEFFIELD.—The *Sheffield Times*, of 27th ult., gives an account of a new park in course of formation by the Duke of Norfolk for the last seven years, at a cost of many thousand pounds, for behoof of the public, though, strange to say, almost totally unknown as yet to the public themselves, or at least, as alleged, without the people taking any interest in it, though they are likely, the *Times* thinks, to make amends for this apathy. It consists of about 50 acres close to the town, appropriated by the late Duke, and named Norfolk Park. A very well-executed engraving of the entrance and lodge is given in illustration of the account from which we have extracted these few particulars.

PATENT IRON COACH.—Mr. Aitken, of Aberdeen, has taken out a patent for the manufacture of iron coaches. His trial-omnibus, carrying nineteen persons, besides driver and cad, weighs only 11 cwt., and can be drawn by two ordinary horses at the rate of ten miles an hour.

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